

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



June 5, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Bush praises coalition troops during Qatar visit

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2003 – President Bush thanked coalition service members for enlarging “the realm of liberty” during a stop in Qatar today.

Bush spoke to American, British, Australian and Polish service members at the base that served as a headquarters for U.S. Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was the last stop of a trip that took him to Europe, Russia and the Middle East.

In 100-degree heat, Bush praised the U.S. soldiers, saying that America had sent them on a mission “to remove a grave threat and to liberate an oppressed people, and that mission has been accomplished.”

Bush also addressed the fact that coalition forces have not found Iraqi weapons of mass destruction yet. “We’re on the look,” Bush said. “We’ll reveal the truth.”

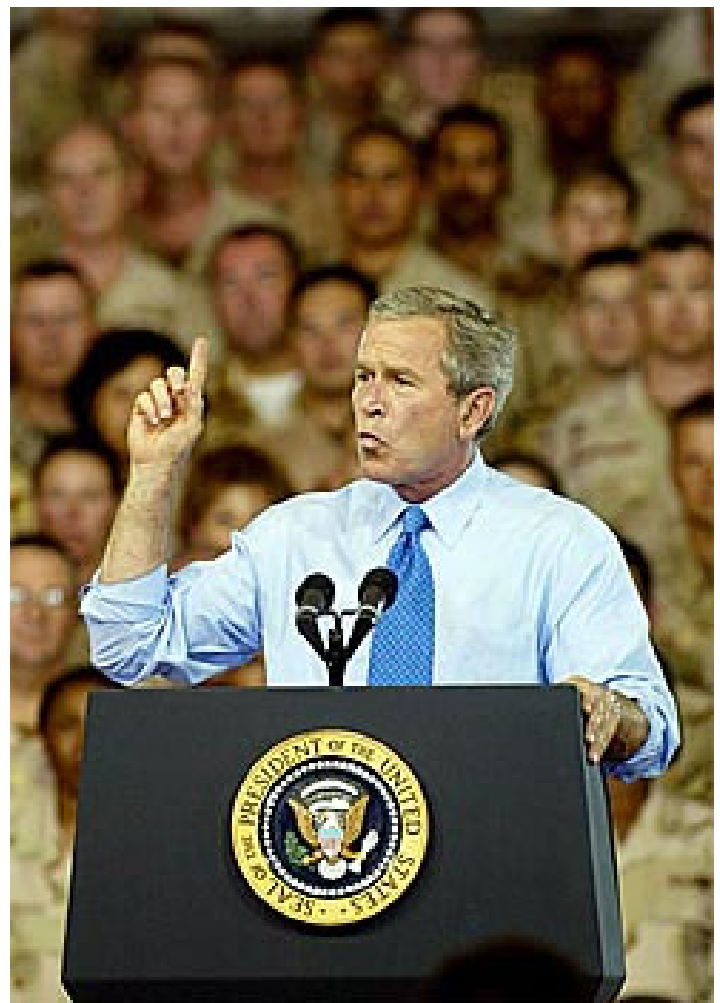
Bush pledged that Iraq will not serve as an arsenal for terrorists. “We recently found two mobile biological weapons facilities which were capable of producing biological agents,” he said.

Saddam Hussein “is a man who spent decades hiding tools of mass murder,” the president noted. “He knew the inspectors were looking for them. You know better than me he’s got a big country in which to hide them.”

He told the service members that each is a credit to the United States and that America is proud of them. “We are in a war on global terror, and because of you, we’re winning the war on global terror,” he said.

The president pointed out that they have performed brilliantly in all aspects of the war of terror. “In Afghanistan, forces directed from here (in) Qatar, ... you delivered decisive blows against the Taliban and against al Qaeda,” he said. “And now the people of Afghanistan are free.”

In praising the men and women who served in Afghanistan, with Combined Joint Task Force–Horn of Africa and in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Bush said their commitment has made it clear that the United States will hunt terrorists down.



Speaking today at Camp As Sayliyah in Doha, Qatar, President Bush praised U.S. soldiers for their efforts in the war against Iraq. “Because of you, the dignity of a great nation is being restored,” he said. (AP photo)

“Our actions sent a long, clear message that our nation is strong and our nation is compassionate,” he said. “And we also sent another clear message: Dictators can no longer shield themselves behind

continued on page 2



A soldier keeps close watch for the arrival of U.S. Pacific Command Adm. Thomas Fargo on Wednesday at Edward Andrews Air Base in Zamboanga City in southern Philippines.

By Pat Roque / AP photo



British explosive ordnance disposal specialists participate in combat training along side their American counterparts during a Phoenix Readiness training course at Fort Dix, N.J. The Air Force Air Mobility Command's Phoenix Readiness combat training has ended and will be replaced in October by the expeditionary combat-support training program, Eagle Flag. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jeromy Cross

Bush praises coalition troops during Qatar visit continued

innocent people. Those who threaten the security of others now need to worry about their own."

Bush told the service members that there is a lot of work left to do in Iraq, and the United States will stay the course. "We will stand with them as they build a stable democracy and a peaceful future," he said.

He said U.S. forces will take aggressive steps to increase order throughout Iraq and will remove Baathist officials from positions of power and influence.

U.S. and coalition officials will continue to work on the Iraq's infrastructure. "We also understand that a more just political system will develop when people have food in their stomachs, and their lights work, and they can turn on a faucet and they can find some clean water – things that Saddam did not do for them," he said.

"See, he spent more time building luxurious palaces than he did in building an infrastructure to take care of the Iraqi citizens. And the United States and our friends and allies will first take care of the Iraqi

citizens."

Bush said he was encouraged that oil is beginning to flow out of Iraq, giving the citizens of the country money to fund a special account on behalf of the Iraqi people rather than being skimmed off by "greedy gangsters."

Bush remembered those who died in the operation to liberate Iraq. "We fight for freedom, and we sacrifice for freedom, and we have lost some of our finest," he noted. He told the service members that those who died served more than just the United States, but the cause of freedom.

"Because of you, America and our friends and allies, those of us who love freedom are now more secure," the president said. "You have justified the confidence that your country has placed in you. You've served your country well. Your commander in chief is grateful. And as importantly, more importantly, millions of American citizens are grateful for what you have done. You believe in America and America believes in you."

One soldier killed, five wounded in Fallujah attack

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 5, 2003 – One soldier was killed and five wounded in an attack in the Baath party stronghold of Fallujah early today local time, U.S. Central Command officials said.

The soldiers were with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

Officials said an unknown assailant fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the men. Names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

The attack occurred despite the buildup of American forces in the area. DoD officials said there are many sympathizers of Saddam Hussein's regime in the city, which is located about 40 miles west of Baghdad.

On May 27, two soldiers were killed and nine wounded in another attack on an American unit in Fallujah. Soldiers killed two enemy and captured six others in that engagement.

CENTCOM officials said that units of the 3rd Infantry Division moved to Fallujah to reinforce the American presence there.



US soldiers conduct a house to house search after one US soldier was killed and five injured in an early morning attack in Fallujah, Iraq, Thursday June 5, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

The command also said it has Ayad Futayyih Khalifa al-Rawi, No. 30 on the Iraqi "Top 55" list, in custody. Al-Rawi was the chief of staff of the Al Quds Force, a paramilitary group in Saddam Hussein's regime.

U.S. to dismantle bases near Korean DMZ

by Sang-hun Choe, The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States agreed Thursday to dismantle bases and withdraw American troops from positions they have occupied for decades near the tense Demilitarized Zone separating South Korea from communist North Korea.

The troops will eventually be moved to "hub bases" at least 75 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, according to a joint statement after two days of talks between U.S. and South Korean officials. Even after the redeployment, U.S. troops will continue to train north of Seoul and close to the DMZ, the statement said.

The redeployment will remove U.S. military bases from the Korean front line for the first time since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Plans for the redeployment were announced amid high tensions caused by an international standoff over North Korea's suspected developments of nuclear weapons.

Officials gave no timetable for the withdrawal, reflecting persistent South Korean worries that any reductions would put it at greater risk of a North Korean attack. Most troops at the U.S. headquarters in the South Korean capital Seoul, 37 miles south of the border, will also be moved south.

Continuing U.S. military exercises near the DMZ "will mean that

U.S. troops will continue to play the role of a tripwire to deter war," said South Korean Assistant Defense Minister for Policy Lt.

Gen. Cha Young-koo, who led the South Korean side in talks with the Americans, led by U.S. Deputy Assistant Defense Secretary for East Asia Richard Lawless.

In April, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said U.S. troops stationed near the Korean DMZ could be shifted south, moved to other countries in the region or even brought home under a global realignment of U.S. troops.

In Rumsfeld's view, the Cold War-era logic of having American troops near the DMZ, where they are within easy range of North Korea's heavy artillery forces, no longer makes sense. The relatively small number of U.S. ground forces there can provide a more effective deterrent to North Korean aggression, he believes, if they are positioned farther south.

Rumsfeld also wants to give the U.S. forces in Korea the flexibility to train for missions elsewhere in the region. U.S. officials have been discussing these issues with the South Koreans for months, as he studies U.S. troop repositioning possibilities elsewhere in the world.

continued on page 4

Afghan bomb explodes near U.S. convoy

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - A homemade bomb exploded near a U.S. special operations convoy in eastern Afghanistan, but no casualties were reported, the U.S. military said Thursday.

The convoy was traveling about a half mile from a U.S. military base in the eastern town of Gardez when the device exploded Wednesday, U.S. Lt. Col. Douglas Lefforge said in a statement from coalition headquarters at Bagram Air Base, north of the capital.

"The convoy continued to the (U.S.) fire-base and returned with other forces to investigate. There were no casualties and only a cracked windshield to one vehicle," Lefforge said.

There was no word on who might have set off the bomb, but several such explosive devices - at least one of them set off by remote-control - have detonated near U.S. forces in eastern Afghanistan amid stepped up rebel attacks in the area.

On Friday, a homemade bomb exploded near a U.S. special forces convoy south of Kabul, lightly wounding an Afghan soldier also traveling with them. And late last month, another homemade bomb exploded as a convoy of American soldiers passed near Gardez, lightly wounding a U.S. special forces soldier.

About 11,500 coalition troops, the majority of them American, are in Afghanistan carrying out operations in search of Taliban rebels and their allies. The Taliban were overthrown in a U.S.-led war in 2001.



U.S. soldier of the 82nd Airborne covers other soldiers, not in the picture, during a house-to-house search for guns in a neighborhood of Baghdad, Wednesday, June 4, 2003. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

U.S. to dismantle bases near Korean DMZ continued

Some have argued that the United States should not pull troops away from the border area unless the North Koreans reciprocate, but Rumsfeld believes the U.S. moves should be made regardless because they strengthen the U.S. defense situation, not weaken it.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun has said the withdrawal of U.S. troops should be a bargaining chip in any talks with North Korea on reducing its massive troop deployment along the border.

For half a century, the U.S. presence near the DMZ has symbolized the U.S.-South Korean military alliance and Washington's commitment to deterring hostilities on the divided peninsula.

Most of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea are stationed between the DMZ and Seoul, which is also within range of North Korean artillery.

The two sides will first move U.S. troops from about 15 bases near the DMZ to two major bases, Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud, north of Seoul. That process could begin as early as this year.

In a second phase, the troops will move to "key hubs south of the Han River," which bisects Seoul, the statement said.

The two sides also agreed to relocate further south most of the estimated 7,000 troops from the sprawling 8th U.S. Army headquarters in downtown Seoul, though the headquarters itself will remain in the capital.



Iraqi boys wave and give flowers to U.S. soldiers at al-Kazimiya district in Baghdad, Iraq, in this Saturday, April 12, 2003 file photo. It's common to see a dozen curious children gathered around an American tank or armored personnel carrier, trying to make friends with the foreigners and using the thumb pointed skyward. Nearly two months after the ouster of Saddam Hussein, the presence of American troops here is greeted with mixed feelings. Many Iraqis resent the U.S. occupation, but they know that without the Americans they would still be living under Saddam's repressive rule. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

Lessons learned process on Iraq war explained

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2003 - Although the U.S. and coalition campaign against Iraq lasted just 38 days, Pentagon leaders are now in the process of analyzing data collected during the war to better understand “what went right” and “what went wrong.”

Marine Maj. Gen. Gordon Nash, commander of Joint Warfighting Center, and Army Brig. Gen. Robert Cone, director of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Joint Lessons Learned Collection Team, briefed reporters on the lessons learned process during a video teleconference June 3. The warfighting center, part of Joint Forces Command, is located in Suffolk, Va.; the teleconference was beamed from command headquarters in nearby Norfolk.

The collection team’s mission was to gather observations and data, conduct analyses and develop recommendations focused on improving joint warfighting capabilities and ensure victory in future conflicts, Nash said. But he also emphasized that the value of collecting information for lessons learned is to save lives, money and improve the military’s capability.

Both men said they could not discuss particulars of what the collection team had learned thus far. That won’t happen at least until Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs’ chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers are briefed later this year.

“Until we have reported to our bosses, we’re going to talk about the process more than substance,” Nash explained.

He said a team of about 35 military and civilian analysts from Joint Forces Command and the Joint Advance Warfighting Program began gathering information on the war March 6, almost two weeks before the conflict began. Today, seven members remain in Iraq to collect

data on post-war operations.

Nash said the data collection team’s early efforts focused on the logistics of the war, “getting the forces to the fight.”

“We didn’t focus on the strategic level as much, and we left the tactical level to the individual services,” Nash said. “But there were certain things with regard to deployment, employment and sustainment that we were very interested in,” he said.

Team members were embedded throughout the U.S. Central Command theater of operations at 10 or more sites, to include, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

They documented the operational levels of war on activities that took place at the forward-deployed CENTCOM headquarters and subordinate functional headquarters. In addition, they recorded interactions among CENTCOM, DoD agencies and other combatant commands supporting Gen. Tommy Franks, the CENTCOM commander who ran the war.

Cone said team tasks were to examine “what happened, why it happened and then determine what should be done about it.”

“Sometimes we may want to document something that went extremely well, and certainly we had many cases of that,” he said. “Other times we want to try an address a problem or help institutionalize a solution to a problem so that we can take our experience and spread it across the Department of Defense.

“Perhaps the most exciting case is when we see something that

continued on page 6



The Tuwaitha Nuclear facility in Tuwaitha, 50 kilometers southeast of Baghdad, Iraq as seen from the air on Thursday, June 5, 2003. A UN atomic watchdog agency’s team of safety inspectors is arriving Friday to inspect Iraq’s largest nuclear complex in the wake of widespread looting following the fall of Saddam Hussein. A US-led team of inspectors will also arrive Friday to search for Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction. (AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

Web site updates emergency info for civilian employees

Web site updates emergency info for civilian employees

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 5, 2003) - The Army's Civilian Personnel office has designed a Web site to prevent the woeful scenario of not knowing whom to contact if one of its employees is injured or dies while on duty.

The site was operational March 2002. However, more than two-thirds of the 230,000 Army appropriated and non-appropriated-fund civilians have not updated their emergency contact data at the site, www.cpol.army.mil.

"I'm sure if more people knew what we saw after 9-11, when we

Lessons learned process on Iraq war explained continued

works, but we begin to think about better ways to have done it," Cone said. "In many cases this is thinking about the case of what might be if we made certain changes. That is really the exciting part of being in the lessons learned process," he added.

Cone said collection team officers, who were provided absolute unrestricted access throughout the war, took thousands of hours of observations and notes while attending meetings, planning sessions and command updates with key decision makers.

"Watching key decisions being made, problems being solved and generally being provided unrestricted access to the business and conduct of the war," Cone said, was "absolutely essential to having a good understanding of what went down."

"This was not a secret inspection, and there were no hidden agendas," he noted. "We were there to basically assist as observers, collect data and be helpful to the extent that we could."

The collection team collaborated online daily to discuss emerging "insights" into the war and to share feedback.

The team also performed more than 400 focus interviews with key leaders and staff officers during the war. "This has proven to be very useful to us getting at the key points and underlying issues to this conflict," Cone added.

He said the collection team has obtained nearly 4,000 data files of key activities and briefings conducted during the war.

He emphasized that having a data collection team serving on the ground with key leaders will be important to warfighters in the future.

Cone said the outcomes will provide today's answers to future combat commanders' questions, such as: "What is important to the warfighter? What was Gen. Franks trying to accomplish? What were the key issues that he had to deal with? How did he and his staff deal with them? How can we make things better for the next joint force commander?"

started going through the process of providing data to the Casualty Assistance Office, they would make sure that their information was correct," said Patricia Nabinett, a personnel management specialist at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

The information provided to the site would be used to notify family or friends in the case of an emergency or death.

Nabinett designed the site, to provide an automated method of accessing employees' emergency contact information. After Sept. 11, 2001, Nabinett said they discovered that the data for many employees was missing or outdated. There was not one system that held everyone's personal information, she said. Some managers had hard copies, and there was not a standard way to extract that type of information, she added.

This Web site has been an innovative process for the Army, said Taiwana Smith, a personnel management specialist with PERSCOM.

"The Air Force is interested in duplicating our system, and is looking to us for help on trying to improve its notification system," Smith said.

"We've tried to make the process of updating the required information as simple as possible," Nabinett said. "We're not asking for data that we already have such as Social Security numbers and birthdays."

After accessing the CPOL site, individuals can click on the "emergency contact data" tab to register and set up a password. Once a password is established, employees can go to the form and fill out the name, relationship, address and phone number of their appointed contact person.



U.S. Army Pfc. Walter Phillips, 30, from Chicago, operates his backhoe at the edge of a 15-foot crater in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, June 4, 2003. U.S. Army engineers use bulldozers, backhoes and other equipment to dig through a rubble-filled crater, trying to determine if Saddam Hussein died in an April 7 airstrike on a house where he was believed to be hiding. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Soldier sentenced after refusing anthrax vaccine

by Spc. Travis Burnham

FORT DRUM (Army News Service, June 5, 2003) — A special court-martial panel sentenced a mobilized reservist from Pennsylvania to a bad conduct discharge after she refused to receive the anthrax vaccine.

Pvt. Kamila K. Iwanowska, currently assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Installation Troop Command, Fort Drum, N.Y., was found guilty of two specifications of willingly disobeying a lawful order from a superior officer under Article 90 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Iwanowska came to Fort Drum in January. That was shortly after her unit, the U.S. Army Reserve 233rd Quartermaster Company, a petroleum supply unit from Philadelphia, was mobilized in preparation for deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. As part of that preparation, all members of Iwanowska's unit were ordered to receive the anthrax vaccine.

When Iwanowska refused the anthrax shot, her company commander counseled her on the matter. After receiving education about the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program and refusing the shot a second time, she was offered procedures under Article 15, UCMJ, the Army's non-judicial method of punishment.

A part of those procedures allowed Iwanowska to reject a hearing before the field-grade commander offering them, and to instead demand trial by court-martial. She did not demand trial by court-martial. At the proceeding, her punishment was to be reduced in rank from specialist to private and to forfeit half of her pay for two months. However, the punishment was also suspended.

On Feb. 3 and 7, Iwanowska refused direct orders from Col. Emory Helton, the Fort Drum garrison commander, to receive the anthrax vaccine. In a separate administrative proceeding that Iwanowska

initiated Feb. 26, she requested a religious accommodation.

On March 12, Iwanowska requested that Helton not vacate the suspension he had placed on her sentence, citing religious reasons. Helton vacated the suspension and transmitted a recommendation to the installation commander, recommending trial by special court-martial.

Capt. Jeremy Ball, senior defense counsel, and civilian defense attorney Kenneth Levine represented Iwanowska in court. She pleaded not guilty to the offense and chose a panel of five enlisted and three officers.

In her defense, Iwanowska cited her religious convictions as her reason for refusing the vaccine. Iwanowska said she believes it would be a sin for her to accept the shot, because she feels it could jeopardize the health of any children she may have later in life.

Invoking her right to make an un-sworn statement, upon which she could not be cross-examined by the prosecution, Iwanowska stated she is a devout Roman Catholic and feels it is against her personal religious beliefs to possibly endanger the health of her future family.

Iwanowska faced a maximum sentence of 12 months' confinement, two-thirds forfeiture of pay for that period, and a bad conduct discharge.

After deliberating for two hours, the panel returned with a sentence of a bad conduct discharge.

Prosecuting attorney Maj. Dave Tobin expressed his satisfaction with the verdict and sentencing.

"We are very satisfied that the military justice system worked,"

continued on page 8

Web site updates emergency info for civilian employees continued

"It's crucial that we have the information," Smith said. "Before we can determine what benefits or entitlements the spouse or designated beneficiary gets, we have to notify that designated person."

It can take up to several weeks to find family members or friends after a tragedy, and that increases the chances that the victims' loved ones could find out about the death through other channels, Nabinett said.

The emergency contact person does not have to be a relative for civilians, Nabinett said. However, it's different for soldiers.

Soldiers are also required to keep Department of Defense Form 93, Record of Emergency Data, updated in their personnel files. Before any major deployment, part of the outgoing process is to have soldiers review their DD93 and their Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance form.

Most Personnel Support Battalion's proactively get soldiers to review

their forms during peacetime. But on one occasion, a PERSCOM official said, a soldier died in Germany, and the address for his next of kin was a post office box.

For anyone who isn't sure about who's listed on his SGLI or on DD Form 93, just walk into any PSB — it's a simple process that can be done on a walk-in basis, said Sgt. Ricardo Rodriguez, a records noncommissioned officer for the Military Personnel Center in Arlington, Va.

Most people have the wrong perception of who their next of kin is, and another misperception is when changes can be made to the SGLI, Rodriguez said.

"The name on the emergency data form has to be someone of relationship to you, not a fiancé," Rodriguez said. "Also at any time changes can be made to the SGLI. The process for getting a divorce may take up to several months, but soldiers don't have to wait until it's final to change the name of their beneficiary."

House resolution praises participants in Afghan campaign

by Rick Maze, Army Times staff writer

A resolution praising U.S. forces for their part in the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns passed the House on Wednesday.

The resolution, approved on a 406-2 vote, lists all the U.S. military units who took part in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., the House Armed Services Committee chairman, the resolution's chief sponsor, read the list of units on the House floor, and said he hoped no one was left out.

"This resolution commends the bravery, dedication and resolve of all of those who contributed to the success of these two operations," Hunter said.

Reps. Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, and Mike Honda, D-Calif., were the only lawmakers to oppose the resolution, although eight others voted "present."

"I want to express the condolences and thanks of a grateful nation and a grateful Congress to the families of those service personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice during these operations," Hunter said. "Nothing we do here today can adequately express our sorrow

at the loss of these brave men and women. The sole consolation I can offer is that it is my firm conviction that they did not die in vain."

The resolution also praises U.S. leaders and allies and makes a special point of mentioning U.S. civilians.

"Without the help of these valiant allies who contributed so much, we could not have enjoyed the success we have had to this point," Hunter said. "Neither could we have succeeded without the support of the civilian employees of the Department of Defense, industry employees and leadership, community organizations and employers who made their Guardsmen and reservists available for these endeavors."

Hunter called the Afghanistan and Iraq operations the "first two campaigns" of the global war on terrorism that "proved our resolve in taking the fight to anyone, anywhere who wishes to do us harm."

"The results show that the United States remains the most powerful and effective military in the history of mankind," he said. "After-action reports will show many reasons for our success. However, I believe that the most important factor is the simplest one, our people."

Washington trains for terror flights

From Barbara Starr, CNN Pentagon Correspondent

WASHINGTON (CNN) — Two C-172 Cessna Skyhawk aircraft will conduct low-level flights over Washington Thursday evening, simulating a terrorist attack against the metropolitan area as part of a series of air defense exercises being conducted by the U.S. military.

The exercise, called "Falcon Virgo," will involve small airplanes conducting low-level flights over the capitol area.

Two Air Force F-16s will be conducting routine combat air patrols at the time and could be ordered to chase the small planes.

Soldier sentenced after refusing anthrax vaccine continued

Tobin said. "With the regard to the sentence - the panel has spoken, and we are satisfied with what they had to say."

Iwanowska was born in Poland and immigrated to the United States in 1992. After graduating from college, she joined the Army in January 2000 and became an American citizen in April 2002.

Upon hearing the sentence, Iwanowska said she was relieved that she would not be confined, but she was disappointed that she will no longer be serving in the Army.

"I still believe the Army is a good place, and I don't regret joining," she said after the verdict. "I don't regret what I did, I just wish it had turned out differently."

(Editor's note: Spc. Travis Burnham is a staff writer for the 27th Public Affairs Detachment.)

There will be a computerized simulation with other air defense units testing the ability to quickly identify hostile targets and force them to land, in coordination with commercial air space authorities.

Exercises involving F-16s operating over the D.C. metro area last month prompted numerous phone calls to media outlets from residents frightened by the noise of the low-flying jets. Thursday night's exercise, postponed from Wednesday, is expected to run from 6 p.m. to midnight ET.



Shannon Mosley and her 6-month-old son greet husband and father Spc. Anthony Mosley on Tuesday during a homecoming ceremony for more than 300 soldiers at Ft. Stewart, Ga. AP photo by Stephen Morton.

U.S. forces nab Iraqi militia commander

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. forces are holding Lt. Gen. Iyad Futaiyeh al-Rawi, who commanded a mass militia force that supposedly included millions of volunteer fighters, a military statement said Thursday.

Al-Rawi was No. 30 on the U.S. list of the 55 most-wanted former Iraqi officials, according to a brief statement released by the U.S. Central Command. At least 23 of those most-wanted figures are now in custody, U.S. officials say.

Al-Rawi was chief of staff of the al-Quds Army, or Jerusalem's Army, which was set up three years ago by Saddam Hussein to act as a backup to the regular army.

Iraqi authorities claimed the force - supposedly intended to liberate Jerusalem - consisted of seven million members, mostly civilians who received some basic military training. The real numbers were

believed to have been much smaller, and it played almost no role during the last war.

Al-Rawi was a former Republican Guard commander who was awarded 27 medals and prized "Qadassiyah Sword" for exploits during 1980-88 war with Iran. He was severely wounded in the head in 1988 leading his troops in a counterattack against Iranian forces near the end of the war.

His Republican Guard forces repeatedly used chemical weapons against the Iranians, seriously demoralizing their army. Al-Rawi eventually recaptured all Iraqi territory occupied by the Iranians, including the southern Faw peninsula and the Majnoon oil fields.

These defeats eventually forced the Iranians to accept the July 1987 U.N. cease-fire resolution, which took effect Aug. 20, 1988.

Congress okays military immigrants changes

by Elizabeth Wolfe

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress acted Wednesday to shorten the time immigrants in the U.S. military must wait to apply for citizenship, potentially benefiting about 37,000 non-citizens now serving.

The House voted 414-5 to cut the eligibility wait from three years to one year, while the Senate approved legislation to make it two years.

Ten non-citizens were among the U.S. troops killed during the Iraq military operation. About one in five Medal of Honor recipients have been immigrants.

"Aren't these precisely the kinds of individuals that we should want as United States citizens?" said Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash.

The measure would waive naturalization fees for military personnel seeking citizenship and does not require that the applicant pay for travel to the United States to fill out forms or be interviewed. Instead,

the process could occur at a U.S. embassy, consulate or military installation abroad.

The legislation would also extend immigration benefits to families of those killed during service and granted posthumous citizenship. That provision covers spouses, children and parents and is retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001.

While longtime bill advocates praised passage of the House version, some elements drew criticism.

Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif., said she was disappointed that citizenship would be revoked if the applicant was discharged less than honorably in the first five years of service.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, criticized the requirement that parents can only receive benefits if they are on U.S. soil when their son or daughter is killed in service.

"It should make no difference whether a parent is here or abroad at the time of their child's death," Lee said.

Non-citizens make up nearly 3 percent of the Armed Forces.

"We must honor the worthy heroes who fight for us today, and embrace them as our fellow citizens," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a sponsor of the Senate amendment. That version was attached to the \$400.5 billion Defense Authorization Act passed last month.

President Bush signed an executive order last July to speed up the application process, making immigrants in the military immediately eligible.

Normally during peacetime, non-citizens in the Armed Forces can apply for naturalization after three years of service, compared to a five-year wait for other immigrants.



US soldiers scout an area while conducting a search for weapons in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday June 4, 2003. (AP Photo/Saurabh Das)

Plan urged for Congress in case of attack

by Jennifer C. Kerr

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Constitution should be amended to ensure the quick selection of replacements should many members of Congress be killed or incapacitated by a terrorist attack, a commission recommended Wednesday.

Governors now appoint senators when vacancies arise prior to an election, but the only provision for replacing House members is a special election that can take months to organize. There is concern Congress would be unable to function while waiting for special elections for a large number of House members.

The bipartisan panel of scholars and former government officials including House Speakers Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and Tom Foley, D-Wash., said Congress should amend the Constitution to allow for temporary appointments after an attack.

The commission said governors should appoint the replacements, sending people of their choice or picking from a list of candidates that individual House members compile.

"We know the violence that was done on September 11 and we know the bullet, literally, that we dodged on Capitol Hill," said Norman Ornstein, a senior counselor to the commission and scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

He said the panel came to a unanimous decision on the need for an amendment.

The Continuity of Government Commission, formed after the Sept. 11 attacks, is a joint project of two Washington think tanks, the conservative American Enterprise Institute and more liberal Brookings Institution.

The commission is co-chaired by former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo, and former presidential adviser Lloyd Cutler. Members include former White House chiefs of staff Leon Panetta and Ken Duberstein, and former Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.



A new postage stamp commemorating the Purple Heart, the nation's oldest military award, was released Friday, May 30, 2003, by the U.S. Postal Service. The 37-cent stamp features a photograph of a Purple Heart awarded in 1968 to James Loftus Fowler, a Marine lieutenant colonel, who served in Vietnam. Originally a "badge of distinction for meritorious action," the Purple Heart now is awarded to members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action. (AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)



Former Sen. Robert Dole looks on during the unveiling ceremony of the Dwight D. Eisenhower statue in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, in Washington Wednesday, June 4, 2003. The bronze likeness of the 34th president, clad in his general's uniform, replaces a statue of a little-known former Kansas governor. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

Rumsfeld makes case for transforming civilian workforce

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 4, 2003 – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld cleared up some misconceptions about the proposed DoD civilian personnel system during testimony before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee today.

Rumsfeld said that the current system is not flexible and agile enough to confront the dangers of the 21st century. Basically, he is asking Congress to approve a new way of hiring, rewarding, assigning and firing federal workers to meet these challenges.

DoD has more than 730,000 civilian workers. They are an important part of the department. Rumsfeld, Joint Chiefs chairman Air Force Gen. Richard Myers and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clarke emphasized that to transform the department, it must be allowed to transform the civilian workforce.

Rumsfeld spoke about what the new system will and will not do. “It will not remove whistle-blowing protections,” he told the senators. “Those who report ... mismanagement, fraud (and) other abuses will have the same protections that they have today.”

The system will not eliminate or alter employee protections available through the equal employment opportunity complaint process, nor will it in any way affect the rights of DoD employees under civil rights laws.

“Notwithstanding the allegations to the contrary, these proposals will not remove prohibitions on nepotism or political favoritism, as has been charged,” he said. “Those things will properly continue to be prohibited.”

The proposed changes will not eliminate veterans’ preference, nor will they end collective bargaining. “What it would do is bring collective bargaining to the national level, so that the department could negotiate with national unions, instead of dealing with more than 1,300 different union locals, a process that is inefficient,” he said.

The proposed changes will not give the department a blank check to change the civil service system unilaterally. “Like the system Congress approved for the Department of Homeland Security, before any changes are made to the civil service system, the employees’ unions must be consulted, the Office of Personnel Management is involved in design, and any disagreements would have to be reported to Congress,” Rumsfeld said.

The new system would give the president a waiver that would allow him to give the department the flexibility to respond in the event national security requires DoD to respond and act quickly.

The national security personnel system will not result in the loss of job opportunities for civil service employees, the secretary said. “It’s the current system that limits opportunities for DoD civilians,” he said. Presently, some 320,000 jobs that should be filled by civilian personnel done by military members. The secretary said this is because it is easier to manage service members and contractors



than civil servants.

“By creating perverse incentives for managers to give civilian tasks to the military personnel and to give civilian tasks to contractors, we believe that the transforming initiatives we are proposing would most likely generate more opportunities for DoD civilians, not less,” he said.

The new system is the result of careful work. “These (proposals) are based on personnel management systems that Congress approved last year for Homeland Security and many years of experience with a number of successful congressionally authorized programs,” Rumsfeld said. One pilot program – the Navy’s China Lake experiment that tested pay banding – has been in operation for about 20 years.

“The pilot programs, which now involve over 30,000 DoD employees, tested many of those reforms, including pay banding systems, simplified job classifications, pay for performance, recruiting and staffing reforms, scholastic achievement appointments and enhanced training and development opportunities,” he said. “In each of those demonstration programs, when measured, employee satisfaction has been high, and the employers are retaining more of their top performers.

“Our objective is ... to take those successful, congressionally approved pilot programs and expand them throughout DoD, so that more civil service employees can benefit from the increased opportunities that they’ve created, and so that their greater effectiveness can be applied across the department,” the secretary noted.



"Quote by the"
Secretary of Defense

“The National Security Personnel System will not result in the loss of job opportunities for Civil Service employees. It’s the current system that limits opportunities for DOD civilians. By creating perverse incentives for managers to give civilian tasks to the military personnel and to give civilian tasks to contractors, we believe that the transforming initiatives we are proposing would most likely generate more opportunities for DoD civilians, not less.”

— From testimony to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, June 4, 2003

SGM Course graduates largest class ever

by Phil Tegtmeier

FORT BLISS, Texas (Army News Service, June 4, 2003) -An audience of more than 1,000 family members, instructors and Army leaders assigned worldwide saluted the 624 graduates of the latest resident Sergeants Major Course during their commencement ceremony at the El Paso Convention Center, May 29.

This class, Class 53, was the largest class to graduate in the academy's 32-year history.

Students attend the course as a permanent change of station. They have the option of bringing their families to El Paso while they attend the course. Most of the graduates have already left the academy to take up leadership or senior enlisted advisor positions in military commands worldwide. Others will remain at the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas, until assignments open for them.

"I'll be working at the academy for four to six months until my assignment orders come in," said Sgt. Maj. Ian A. Mann, one of the graduates. "I'm glad the school's over, and now I look forward to getting back out into the field and applying what I've learned in the last nine months."

Mann is also looking forward to spending time with his family, including his son, Marine Cpl. David Mann. David is assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Twenty-Nine Palms, Calif. His unit just returned from action in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and David was on hand at the graduation ceremony. The two posed for photographs amidst a throng of family, friends and graduates who gathered outside after the ceremony.

The graduating class included six senior NCOs from the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard and 33 international students from armies on all seven continents. Those countries include some former Warsaw Pact members, such as Poland and Romania. The international students attend the same nine-month course, but start a month early to acclimate themselves with American culture.

"I was glad to have the opportunity to attend this course," said Master Sgt. Marco Galle of the Italian Army's 183rd Parachute Regiment. "My country sends only one student a year and to have been selected to attend was a great honor. I hope I can use what I've learned here to help my fellow soldiers understand how our American counterparts do their jobs," he said.

Gen. John M. Keane, Army vice chief of staff, was the guest speaker. He asked the graduates of the Army's "premiere NCO course" to rededicate themselves to their fundamental role: taking care of soldiers and their families.

Keane reminded his audience that soldiers have displayed a heroic willingness to sacrifice themselves and all they hold dear during the global war on terrorism. He said such soldiers deserve good leadership and that it's the NCO's job to provide it.

"You set standards, and it's not just about standards. It's about

high standards," Keane said. "You know what high standards are, and it's your job to bring others in your unit up with you."

He also had a message for the graduates' families and for Army families everywhere.

"It's not possible for us in uniform to get the job done without [the families]," Keane said. He thanked the families in the audience and asked the graduates to help soldiers take care of their families. He reminded them to look to the needs of their own families, too, as they returned to the field to take up their new assignments.

He said that together the Army family has not let the American public down once in the 227 years of its existence. He told the graduates that it was now up to them to train the leaders of tomorrow who will guarantee that legacy continued.

The next resident Sergeants Major Course, Class 54, slated to start in August has been postponed to January because of current deployments. The course is now slated to start Jan. 12 and end June 30.

(Editor's note: Phil Tegtmeier is the USASMA public affairs officer.)



Army advocates in-state tuition for military families

by Joe Burlas

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 4, 2003) —The Georgia Board of Regents listened when the Army started informally asking all states in February to consider favorable in-state college tuition policies for soldiers and their family members.

Georgia changed its in-state tuition rules in late May to mirror the Army's desire for soldiers and their family members to have in-state tuition eligibility both in their state of legal residence and the state where the soldier is assigned, and continuity of that eligibility once established.

In addition to Georgia, there are currently 15 other states the Army considers to be soldier-friendly in meeting its in-state tuition desire, said Mike Tevnan, an education specialist at the Total Army Personnel Command. Those states include Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah.

Tevnan related the contents of an e-mail he got in the past year from a master sergeant with a legal residence of Florida, who was stationed in Texas when his child started college with in-state tuition rates there and then was assigned to a post in Georgia. The daughter lost in-state eligibility when her father moved. When investigating her moving to a Georgia college, the sergeant learned that his daughter would not be able to transfer all the college course credits she earned in Texas.

Texas has since moved to conform its in-state eligibility rules as its legislative body has just incorporated soldier-friendly changes into a formal bill. That bill now awaits Gov. Rick Perry's signature before becoming law.

Last November's Army Family Action Plan identified the financial hardship placed upon military families due to varying in-state college tuition rules as those families are required to move from state to state due to military reassignment as its number one issue. The delta, or difference, between average annual in-state and out-of-state tuition costs ranges from \$3,000 to more than \$17,000, according to Tevnan's research.

For example, the difference between average in-state and out-of-state tuition in North Carolina is \$17,921.

That delta can often make the difference between a soldier being able to afford sending a family member to college or not, said Patty Shinseki, wife of Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki and host of the annual Army Family Action Plan meeting for the past four years. Soldiers and their families shouldn't be penalized by virtue of the many moves their service to the nation often requires, she said.

Army officials are prohibited by law from lobbying — in other words, leaders cannot call up lawmakers or their staffs and tell them what the Army wants whenever they feel like it. Army officials can, however, respond to queries from those lawmakers and staffs about what the Army is interested in and talk about the issue through

established normal lines of communication between lawmakers and the Army. It can also use its civilian aides to the secretary of the Army to let legislators know military favorable in-state tuition rules are important to the Army.

The tuition issue was a prominent part of a presentation by Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) Reginald Brown at the CASA conference in February. Tevnan credited the Georgia and Texas CASAs for immediately getting the issue in front of their state legislative bodies. That action was particularly timely in Texas where the legislative body only meets formally once every two years.

Col. Gina Farissee, the Army adjutant general, gave in-depth information packets about how each state handles its in-state tuition rules for the military and family members and what the Army would like to see to the CASAs. She is forwarding similar packets to each state adjutant general and the commanders of every Army installation in the United States so they will be prepared to discuss the issue with lawmakers and their staffs if the proper opportunity presents itself.

The Department of Defense liked the Army's in-state tuition initiative so much that John Molino, deputy under secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, directed other services in January to designate a senior ranking official to work closely with the Army in getting the word out to state education regulatory bodies as it benefits all service members.

While most states meet at least two of the Army's criteria, Tevnan said, seven have policies that are considered unfavorable to the military or no policy at all. Those states are Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.

Information about how each state rates with what the Army desires for in-state tuition eligibility for soldiers and family members can be found on the Army Education Homepage, www.armyeducation.army.mil, under the civilian links of its links page.



Bus explosion

A female suicide bomber blew up a bus carrying workers from a Russian air base near Chechnya.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI **AP**

A female bomber attacked a bus as it headed toward a Russian military air base near Chechnya, killing herself and at least 14 others in a new blow to the Kremlin's claims of increasing stability in the region. (AP Graphic)



Iraqi boys play with their national flag June 5, 2003, outside a police station that was attacked and set on fire last night in Falluja, 40 miles west of Baghdad. A U.S. soldier was killed and five were wounded when an assailant fired at least one rocket-propelled grenade at them in the restive Iraqi town the U.S. military and residents said. The attack took place as the United States sent more than 3,000 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade and dozens of tanks to the Sunni Muslim town to contain attacks on its forces. Reuters photo.



A teenager walks past abandoned Iraqi surface-to-air missiles and a mobile launcher on the outskirts of Baghdad on Wednesday. By Samir Mezban / AP photo



South Korean army General Cha Yung-gu answers reporters' questions in front of the symbol of the Defense Ministry in Seoul June 5, 2003. U.S. and South Korean officials agreed on Thursday to a timetable for removing frontline American forces from the South's border with communist North Korea, the allies said in a statement. Reuters photo.

Defend America News
**Global War
On Terrorism**

AFGHANISTAN
IRAQ
DJIBOUTI
PHILIPPINES

[CLICK HERE](#) for the latest News Photos Features

www.defendamerica.mil/